

What's the Risk?

Rodent Control

Introduction

Ontario Survey's indicate 80% of poultry producers and 89% of swine producers have rodent control problems. Rats tend to avoid unfamiliar objects, such as bait and traps and may avoid them for several days, whereas mice are quick to accept objects and will explore.

Under ideal situations, rats and their offspring can produce 20,000,000 young in three years. Mice reproduce even faster.

A rat produces 25,000 droppings per year and a mouse 17,000 which can contaminate feed stored in barns.



What's the Risk?

Mice and rats can cause extensive damage to electrical wiring which could lead to a fire hazard. When feed for livestock is not stored in rodent proof bins, their droppings, urine, hair or the organisms on their feet can contribute to the spread of disease. Openings around water and utility hookups, vents and feed augers are potential entry points for mice and rats. An opening of 1 cm in diameter is sufficient for a rat to squeeze through and a mouse only requires 0.6 cm's.

What can be done?

Electrical panels must have all panel fillers and knock outs in place to help prevent rodents from entering.

Feed must be stored in rodent proof bins.

Course steel wool or hardware cloth can be used to help block openings around water and utility hookups, vents and feed augers.

If there is a rodent problem inside the barns, prevention alone will not solve the problem. A population-reduction program will be necessary. Traps, glue boards, baiting stations and an approved rodenticide (toxic bait) are options. Without readily available food and water, populations cannot increase.

